

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 041771 TOSEC 040157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: SENATOR HUMPHREY COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN PILOTS
TRAINING ON F-5'S

1. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FEB 18
REPORTS THAT DURING DISCUSSION ON SENATE FLOOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ASSISTANCE ARMS SUPPORT CONTROL
ACT OF 1976, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAID IN ESSENCE THAT EGYPTIAN
PILOTS HAVE TRAINED ON F-5 AIRCRAFT WE HAVE PROVIDED
TO IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

2. SENATOR HUMPHREY'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED IN THE CON-
GRESSIONAL RECORD ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE.....THE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, THE UNITED STATES IS
SELLING ALL OVER THE WORLD, THE F-5E, A GOOD FIGHTER AIR-
CRAFT, SELLS FOR ABOUT DOLS 1.5 MILLION. YOU CAN BUY A
WHOLE SQUADRON OF THEM FOR UNDER DOLS 25 MILLION.....

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THE PERCY AMENDMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW CONGRESS - AND I BRING

THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES - THE AMENDMENT WOULD NOT ALLOW CONGRESS TO REJECT THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS UNLESS THE VALUE OF THE WEAPONS TO BE TRANSFERRED

EXCEEDS DOLS 25 MILLION. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE ARE SELLING ALL KINDS OF WEAPONS TO IRAN, TO SAUDI ARABIA.

YOU COULD TRANSFER A WHOLE SQUADRON OF F-5E FIGHTERS - NOT ONLY A SQUADRON, GENTLEMEN, BUT FOUR OR FIVE SQUADRONS - WHY? BECAUSE ONCE A PLANE IS FLOWN, IT IS LIKE A USED CAR. THE MINUTE YOU DRIVE IT OUT OF THE GARAGE FROM WHICH YOU PURCHASED IT, THE CAR LOSES DOLS 1,000 IN VALUE BECAUSE IT IS A USED CAR.

THE MINUTE A PLANE HAS BEEN SOLD, IT IS USED EQUIPMENT, AND MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO A THIRD COUNTRY AT REDUCED PRICES.

THIS AMENDMENT WOULD PREVENT CONGRESS FROM EXERCISING ANY SUPERVISION, ANY REVIEW OF SUCH TRANSFERS TO THIRD COUNTRIES VALUED UNDER DOLS 25 MILLION.

I WANT TO SAY FOR THE SENATE'S RECORD THAT ONE OF THE CONCERNS OF OUR COMMITTEE IS THE SALE OF THESE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO COUNTRIES WE BELIEVE TO BE OUR FRIENDS AND THE SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF THEM BY THOSE COUNTRIES TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE HAD INSTANCES WHERE NOT ONLY THE WEAPONS, BUT ALSO THE TRAINING HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED. IN ONE RECENT INSTANCE WE DECIDED NOT TO SELL EGYPT ANY SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND THEN FOUND OUT THAT, I BELIEVE IT WAS THE SAUDI ARABIANS WERE TRANSFERRING EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT AND USING OUR TRAINING FOR THOSE PILOTS.

I AM NOT TRYING TO SAY THAT EGYPT IS AN UNRELIABLE COUNTRY. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THERE WAS NO INTENTION IN THE INITIAL SALE OF THE WEAPONS TO SAUDI ARABIA OR IRAN THAT THEY BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.

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3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO PRESS STORIES COMMENTING ON THESE REMARKS TO DATE. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN QUERIED ON HUMPHREY'S COMMENTS.

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